

September 13, 2026-LESSON 1

RAHAB AND THE SPIES

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Prepares the Way

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 2

GOD'S BIG STORY: A woman named Rahab hides two Israelite spies as God prepares the way for His people to live in the land He promised them.

WORD OF WONDER: He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations. —1 Chronicles 16:15

CURIOSITY Large Group or Small Group

Hands-on activities to spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God

- Welcome Questions: What place would be extra exciting for you to visit? What's the first thing you would do when you got there?
- Curiosity Questions
- Interactive Game: Table Tennis Marble Run
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF Large Group

An interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder

FAITH Small Group

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own

- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions
- Small Group Prayer Time

IDENTITY Large Group or Small Group

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids that they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder

- Preteen Responding in Worship: Poster Reflections
- Blessing Your Kids

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more! WONDER@HOME (PDF)

Wonder Ink

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Prepares the Way

SCRIPTURE: [Joshua 2](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [1 Chronicles 16:15](#)

When my infant son was in the hospital with seizures, fear overwhelmed me. On a day when I was especially low, I received a large cash gift from an acquaintance. “I thought you could fly your mom out,” he suggested. I was floored by God’s provision from an unexpected source.

When the Israelite spies went to stake out Jericho, God prepared the way through a young woman of ill repute who hid them. All Rahab asked for in return was her life and the lives of her family members. Not only would Israel overtake Jericho, but also Rahab would become part of the lineage of Christ.

Read [Joshua 2:8–14](#). Imagine being an Israelite—one of God’s chosen people—and making a deal with a prostitute. I wonder if they ever doubted whether this was truly God’s provision. And yet, Rahab would become part of the fulfillment of God’s greatest promise—a Savior for the world.

- In what ways have you seen God keep His promises to you?
- Is there a particular area in your life where God has prepared the way?
- How have God’s methods of provision been different from those you would have chosen?

Like the Israelites, we sometimes face big obstacles. These challenges may tempt us to lose heart. But as we trust in God and follow Him, we’ll discover that God prepares the way for us.

—Suzanne Gosselin

Children’s Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS****WHO?**

The focus of this story is on the Israelite spies and the Canaanite Rahab. Rahab lived in Jericho and had a morally objectionable job, but she was willing to protect the spies and serve the God of Israel.

WHAT?

[Joshua 2](#) is about the adventure that two Israelite spies went on when scouting out the city of Jericho to check out its defenses. The spies discover just how God prepared the way for Israel's victory.

WHERE?

The story is set in the famous walled city of Jericho. After Jericho's destruction, it would not be rebuilt for over 500 years. Jericho is also where Jesus met the tax collector, Zacchaeus ([Luke 19:1–10](#)).

WHEN?

This story takes place shortly after the death of the prophet Moses. Joshua became the leader of the Israelites, and he told them to prepare to enter the promised land of Canaan. He sent spies to Jericho as part of that preparation.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Because Rahab showed trust in God by helping the Israelite spies, [Hebrews 11:31](#) lists her among the people of great faith. Her faith was ultimately rewarded when God made her one of the ancestors of Jesus Christ ([Matthew 1:5](#)).

Welcome Question

Write the following questions on a whiteboard: “What place would be extra exciting for you to visit? What’s the first thing you would do when you got there?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.

As kids arrive ...

Welcome kids warmly by inviting them into your group and giving them high fives. Show kids the Welcome Questions and encourage them to share their answers with a friend. For younger kids, read the questions to them. Share your response as well. If time permits, kids can draw a picture to illustrate their response.

At your start time ...

Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Questions: **What place would be extra exciting for you to visit? What’s the first thing you would do when you got there?**

Today in God’s big story, we’ll see how God prepared the way for two spies and sent them help along the way as they checked out a place the Israelites couldn’t wait to reach. But first, it’s time to be curious.

Curiosity Questions

Ask the following “I’m curious” questions. Say, “I’m curious ...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one.

I’m curious ...

- **What would you do to prepare for your trip to this exciting place?**
- **Do you think God prepares exciting places for us? Tell about it.**

Preteen Interactive Game: Table Tennis Marble Run

SUPPLIES: cardstock (1 sheet per kid), table tennis ball

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Table Tennis Marble Run Slide](#), [Rahab Wonder Truth Slide](#)

Ahead of time, choose a starting point and an end point for your marble run course. This could be from one wall to the other or from a table in one part of the room to a point marked on the floor in another part of the room. Consider playing multiple rounds and plan one course that's shorter and can be completed if kids simply line their cardstock up next to each other, and another course that will require kids to move while the ball is rolling.



Gather the kids and give each one a sheet of cardstock. Then show them the table tennis ball. Point out the starting point and the end point for the first, easier round.

For this game, you get to work together to find a way for this table tennis ball to get from the starting point to the end point. You can only use the sheets of cardstock you have, and you are not allowed to touch the ball itself at any time. How are you going to do it? Allow kids to brainstorm ideas. If they need a hint, take a sheet of cardstock and fold it in half longways ("hot dog style"). Encourage them to figure out for themselves that they can use their sheets of folded cardstock like a "pipe" for the ball to roll through. If they line their sheets up next to each other, the ball can keep rolling across them to reach its end point. Once kids have a basic idea of how to make it work, encourage them to try their idea out and see if it works.

How are you going to make a way for the ball to get to the end point? Does your group have a plan? Does everybody know what to do? Pause for kids to share. **OK, let's try it!**

Once kids are in place, drop the ball at the starting point and see if it rolls to its intended end point. If it does, congratulate the kids on their creativity! If not, encourage them to rethink, make adjustments, and try again.

Great job, everyone! Nice work creating a way for the ball to get where it needed to go! We're going to play another round and make a new way. But this time, it's going to be a little harder.

Show the kids a new starting point and end point. This time, consider making a course that's longer than the pipe created by the kids if they simply line up next to each other. **Is your cardstock pipe going to be long enough? How will the ball still get to the end point? How will you make a way now?**

Let kids work out how they will make a way for the ball to still get to the end. (Solution: Some kids from the beginning of the course will need to let the ball roll through their cardstock, and then quickly move to the end of the line to make the pipe longer!)

Once kids have successfully gotten the ball to the end point, or when time is up, gather the kids back together.

How did you make a way for the ball to get to its end point? Allow kids to answer. **When you first got your cardstock, was it easy or difficult to see a way this could work? Did you think you could get the ball all the way to its end point when the way was longer than the pipe you could make?** Invite kids to share.

Sometimes we face hard things, and we can't always see how they will work out. Sometimes we might not see a way through at first. But God is with us when things are easy, and He's with us when things are hard. We'll see in today's story that no matter what we face, God always makes a way for us. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD PREPARES THE WAY.**

Declaring God's Wonder

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You prepare the way for me. (Kids repeat.)

You are always faithful. (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Belief

Large Group

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, thank You for Your love. Thank You for being there for us when times are easy and when times are hard. As we learn about Your Word today, we invite Your Holy Spirit to teach us and speak to us. Remind us how You always go ahead of us to prepare the way. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story—each one reinforces the others! **HEAR** it read directly from the Bible. **WATCH** it in a video. **EXPERIENCE** it through the live script.



SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Rahab Title Slide](#), [Rahab and the Spies God's Big Story Video](#)

Display the [Rahab Title Slide](#). Tell kids today's story comes directly from the Bible, God's Word. Show them how to find Joshua 2 in the Old Testament in their Bibles. Remind kids that the book is Joshua and the chapter is number two. Encourage volunteers to assist kids in finding the passage.

Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll watch and experience more of the story!

Leader Tip: This passage includes mature subject matter. Be sure to read the selected verses ahead of time and discern what verses are best to include with your unique group. If you choose to read verse 1 and kids ask questions about what the word "prostitute" means, you can explain that Rahab was a woman with a bad reputation. Other people may have looked down on her or whispered about her. But she was the one who put her trust in God and helped the spies.

Read [Joshua 2:1, 8–9, 12–14, 22–24](#) aloud. Then do one or both of the following:

- Use the following Rahab and the Spies Experience It! Script

- View [Rahab and the Spies God's Big Story Video](#)

In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

What did you wonder about in today's story? Allow kids to answer freely.

If you were stuck in a place where it looked as though you had no escape, what would you wonder about? Allow kids to answer freely.



Faith

Small Group

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations.

—1 Chronicles 16:15 (NIV)

SUPPLIES: Bible

The Word of Wonder for the Problems and Promises series is **1 Chronicles 16:15**. Today we learned that God kept His promise to the Israelites and brought them to the edge of the promised land after 40 years in the wilderness. God prepared the way for them to enter the land and defeat their enemies because, like this verse tells us, God always keeps His promises. Let's read the Word of Wonder together.

Open your Bible to **1 Chronicles 16:15**. Encourage the kids to sit in a circle, open their Bibles to **1 Chronicles 16:15**, and read the verse together. Then teach kids the following verse motions to help them commit it to memory or have them split up into partners and come up with their own motions.

NIV

He remembers (*Point to head.*)

his covenant (*Hands together, palms up, like a book.*)

forever, (*Arms open wide out to sides.*)

the promise (*Hands together, palms up, like a book.*)

he made, (*Point up.*)

for a thousand generations. (*Point quickly to all the people in the room.*)

1 Chronicles 16:15 (*Shout out the passage.*)

Continue repeating the verse and, in between each repetition, encourage a kid to jump up and give thanks to God for a meaningful promise He has kept in her life. Repeat the verse until several kids have shared.

Preteen Questions

Notice (allow the kids to process what they heard):

- What do you see in the passage? What stands out?
- Before the Israelites could enter the promised land, Joshua sent two spies to check out the land. Why would he do this? What do you think they were looking for?
- Whose house did the spies stay at in Jericho? (*Rahab's*)

Wonder (FIRST allow kids to ask questions of the passage):

- How was Rahab a significant part of how God prepared the way for the Israelites? Do you think God could work through you to prepare the way for someone else? Why or why not?
- How would you have felt if you were one of the Israelites who heard the spies' story after they returned?

Connecting (kids need to make connection)

- What does this show us about God?
- Can you think of a time when God prepared the way for you or your family? Is there a way you see Him preparing the way for you now?

It doesn't matter how hard something looks or how difficult the circumstance may be: God never leaves us, and He is always preparing the way for what is next for us. He is always ahead of us, and because He loves us, He promises to never leave us alone. Let's talk with God and thank Him in prayer.

Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to sit with a partner or group of three. Encourage them to share about a time God was there for them. Encourage kids to offer their praises and requests to God and then pray for each other. Close the prayer time together by praying over the group.



Identity

Small Group

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Preteen Responding in Worship: Poster Reflections

SUPPLIES: posterboard or butcher paper (6 large sheets), painter's tape, markers (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, tape six sheets of posterboard or butcher paper onto the wall in various places around the room. On each poster, write one of the following phrases at the top:

- You are ...
- You are working in ...
- You are with me when ...
- You never stop working because ...
- You are my light in the darkness when ...
- I worship You because ...

In God's big story today, we saw how God continued to be with the Israelites and prepared the way for them, even when they didn't know what was in front of them. He prepared the way as Joshua led the people to the promised land. He prepared the way as Rahab offered a safe hiding place for the spies. He prepared the way so the spies could make sure the land was safe for the people. He prepared the way for Rahab's family to be safe when the city of Jericho was captured. Why do you think God prepared the way for all those people? Allow kids to respond.

Good thoughts! God prepared the way because that's who God is. He keeps His promises. He is always true. He is always faithful. He works in ways we can't see and in ways we don't understand. God is with us in the easy times and the very tough times. Never flinching, never giving up, and always there for the people He loves. That's who God is! He loves us that much!

Let's spend some time reflecting on who God is. All around the room are posters with unfinished sentences on them. Direct kids' attention to the posters around the room and read each one. **As we respond in worship today, I invite you to make your way around the room to each poster and think about who God is. As you get to each poster, finish the sentence with your own words or drawings.** Allow kids time to get a marker and begin making their way around the room. Encourage them to take their time as they reflect at each poster. Play music from the [Problems and Promises Elementary Spotify playlist](#) quietly in the background.

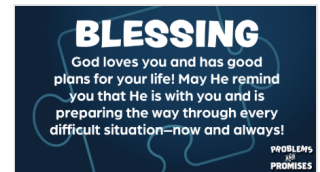
Once kids have had time to move around the room and respond to God at each poster, gather the kids back together. Close with a prayer of thanks for who God is, that He hears our prayers, and that He is always with us and makes a way forward for us, no matter what we face.

Make It Inclusive: Consider having a volunteer stationed at each poster to assist kids who may need help reading the words at the top. Rather than finish the sentences with writing, kids may opt to draw pictures.

Blessing Your Kids

Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: God loves you and has good plans for your life! May He remind you that He is with you and is preparing the way through every difficult situation—now and always!



GAME 1: WHO HAS IT?

SUPPLIES: small object (such as a toy, coin, paper clip, or magnet)

Invite the kids to sit in a circle with their hands behind their backs.

For this game, you'll need to begin with your hands open behind your back and your eyes closed. I'm going to place a (name small object) **in someone's hand. If you get it, stay quiet so you don't let anyone know you're the one with the object. Everyone will sit in a circle and pretend to pass the object from person to person with your hands behind your backs. After about a minute of that, I'll call out, "Freeze," and everyone will stop. Then we'll take turns guessing who has the object.**

**Works well with the
Rahab and the Spies
lesson!**

Invite the kids to close their eyes. Walk around the outside of the circle, pause occasionally, and then place the object in someone's hand. If your group wants to move around (and you have space), the kids can walk around while passing (or pretending the pass) the object. **Now everyone should close your hands and keep your eyes closed until I tell you to open them. If you're the one who has the small item, try to keep a straight face. Don't give it away!** Place the small object in one person's hands.

Now you can all open your eyes and everyone pretend to pass the object while the person who really has the object is actually going to pass it. You have to be careful so we don't know who really has it. You can change the direction you're passing it, too, by passing it back to the person who passed it to you. Encourage the kids to all pretend to pass the object behind their backs. After about a minute, call out, "Freeze."

Choose someone to guess first. Go around the circle, allowing each kid to guess who has the item, including the one who has it. If anyone guesses correctly, he wins that round. If it makes it around the circle without anyone guessing correctly, the kid with the object wins that round. Whoever wins the round gets to pass the item on to another kid.

Could you tell when someone was hiding the object? What gave it away? Give kids a chance to answer. **In today's story, when God's people were in danger, God protected them as they hid in the home of a woman named Rahab! Rahab and God's people may have had to be sneaky when hiding so they didn't get caught, kind of like we were hiding something in the game. We're learning how God prepared the way for His people in our story today!**

Make It Inclusive: Some kids may not have the ability to pretend to pass something if they don't actually have an object. You can give them a small object to hold in their hands so they can have something to hold.